

**NAVAL RESERVE OFFICERS TRAINING CORPS
LEADERSHIP AND ETHICS**

LESSON GUIDE: 5

HOURS: 1.5

TITLE: KANTIAN ETHICS AND MORAL DUTIES

I. Learning Objectives

A. Reading Objectives:

1. The student will be introduced to Kant's moral theory and categorical imperatives.
2. The student will be introduced to the differences between Kant's moral theory and Utilitarianism. The student will be introduced to how Kant's moral theory, specifically his formula of universal law, is applied to determine a course of action in accordance with Kant's definition of "duty."
3. The student will participate in reasoned discussions of gender and sexual issues in the military, recognizing the merits of opposing sides in the debate. Students will use the material taught thus far in the course to determine their own position on these issues.
4. The student will apply the notions of justice, universality, and duty to discussions of equal treatment and affirmative action in hazardous duty professions, such as the military.

B. Discussion Objective:

The student will understand the differences between Kant's moral theories, utilitarianism, and culture/moral relativism as it applies to various military situations.

II. References and Texts

A. Instructor References:

1. Ethics and the Military Profession, Chapter 3B
2. "Objectivity" (Section 11), Naval Leadership: Voices of Experience, pp. 94-100
3. "Moral Responsibility and the Naval Officer" (Section 20), Naval Leadership: Voices of Experience, pp. 153-159
4. "Responsibility and the Naval Officer" (Section 21), Naval Leadership: Voices of Experience, pp. 159-166
5. USNA Blackboard at <http://www.blackboard.usna.edu/>

B. Student Texts:

1. Ethics and the Military Profession, Chapter 3B
2. "Leave No One Behind," Case Studies in Military Ethics, pp. 3-6
3. "Aviano EA-6B Gondola Mishap," Case Studies in Military Ethics, pp. 93-100

III. Instructional Aids

- A. Instructor-prepared transparencies/overhead projector or PowerPoint slides/projection system
- B. VCR/Monitor or projection system
- C. Videos (optional):
 1. Saving Private Ryan
 2. A Few Good Men
 3. Extreme Measures (USNA video clip)
 4. Pentagon Wars (USNA video clip)